NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

January 12, 1996

"SECURITY ALERT" TO BE IMPLEMENTED JANUARY 15

Beginning January 15, the Security Services Department will initiate a new procedure to alert Museum staff to potential security concerns in your area. The Security Alert form is intended as a reminder to heighten security awareness, and its primary use will be after hours. Therefore, the form will be left in the observed office or on a door by patrolling Security officers.

Conditions that might generate a Security Alert include an open or unlocked door, unsecured equipment or keys, or lights or equipment left on accidentally or without purpose. The form includes the date, time, and location of the unsecured condition, and the name of the Security Officer. If you are a recipient of a Security Alert, note the reason checked on the form, and check your area. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Security (x322).

SECURITY ALERT

Date:_____ Time:_____ Location:_____

DURING A SECURITY PATROL OF YOUR AREA, THE FOLLOWING CONDITION WAS OBSERVED:

___ DOOR UNLOCKED

___ UNSECURED PROPERTY _____

___ KEYS FOUND

___ OTHER: _____

YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HELP US HELP YOU BY REDUCING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A CRIME TO OCCUR.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT SECURITY AT EXT. 322

SECURITY OFFICER_____

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

FIELD MUSEUM WELL-REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGY MEETINGS

Margaret Thayer and **Al Newton** (both Zoology), **Olga Helmy** (NSF intern working with Margaret), and **Kate Kelley** and **Jean Tsao** (both University of Chicago graduate students) all attended the annual meetings of the Entomological Society of America in Las Vegas, December 17-21. Margaret, Al, and Olga also went to the Entomological Collections Network meetings immediately beforehand. Margaret had her hands full as President of the Coleopterists Society, which meets with ESA, and as Secretary (now Chairperson-Elect) of ESA's Systematics, Morphology, and Evolution section; she still managed to catch a number of interesting talks. Al had more time to confer with colleagues and attend talk and poster sessions. Olga had an unparalleled opportunity to see what's going on in many kinds of entomological research and meet graduate students and faculty from schools across the country, including some to which she's applying for next year. Olga begins her last semester at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale after spending early January at the Museum.

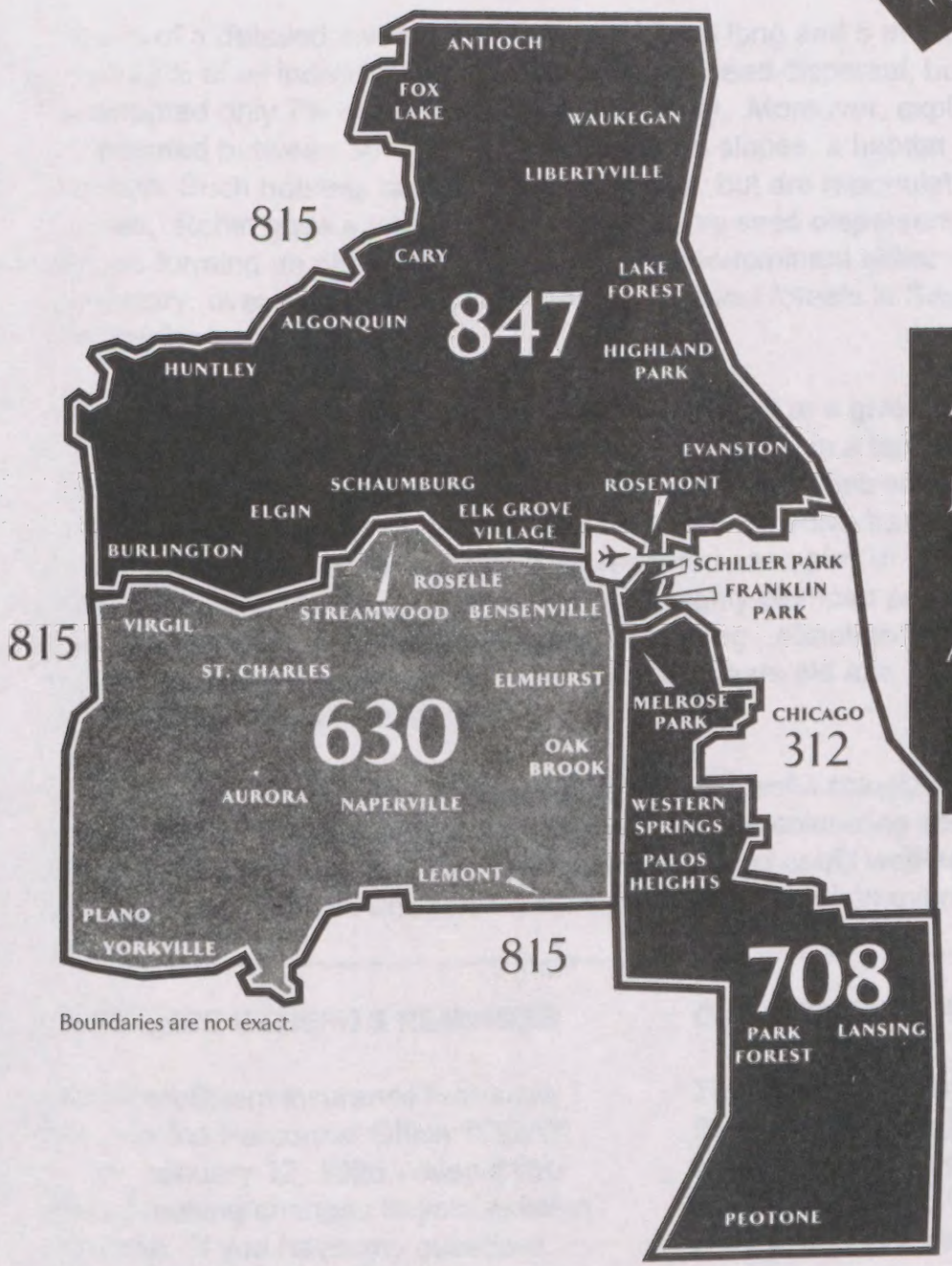
ZOOLOGISTS FEATURE YO-YO CLAMS IN MUSEUM FESTIVAL

During her recent visit to the Division of Invertebrates for collaborative work with **Rüdiger Bieler** (Invertebrates), **Paula Mikkelsen** (Associate, Zoology) also participated in The Field Museum's "Winter Festivals and Games" in Stanley field Hall. Situated next to the Museum's Yo-Yo game activities, Paula and Rüdiger showed our visitors the five new species of "Yo-Yo Clams" they discovered and described from the coast of Florida. A video of the living bivalves, specimens under the microscope and the display of research publications found great interest among the visitors. Yo-Yo clams, highly modified bivalves with internal shells, live in crustacean burrows, each hanging from a byssus thread with their very long foot. When disturbed, they swoop up, a behavior looking like the movement of a Yo-Yo. Paula has volunteered for the Museum's winter program for the last three years.

NOON BALLOON

The first Noon Balloon presentation for 1996 was delivered Tuesday, January 9, by **Robin Foster,** Conservation Ecologist (Botany), Environmental and Conservation Programs, Field Museum. Drawing from his long term field program, Robin focused on questions of species rarity and dominance in conjunction with restricted seed dispersal in tropical forests. Examples of rarity included a soon-to-be described species the genus *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) and a rare toxosiphon(Rutaceae) from the Rio Manu flood plain in Peru. The former species is known only from a single, highly-

Your Guide to the Area Code Changes



Boundaries are not exact.

AREA CODE 847
Begins
January 20, 1996

AREA CODE 630
Begins
August 3, 1996

Ameritech

concentrated population of 150 individuals in an area 25 m X 25 m, while the latter only from a similarly concentrated population of 100+ individuals in an area 10 m X 10 m, despite extensive detailed surveys. These and thirty-two other species in this forest -- out of 2,000+ species -- share the same pattern of distribution where individual plants within a population are closely clustered, and the same mechanism for seed dispersal. When fruits are mature, contraction of the outer layer forcibly ejects the seeds. Explosive seed dispersal is important in the families Euphorbiaceae, Rutaceae, Fabaceae and Violaceae. Although dispersal is explosive, the seeds do not fall more than a few meters from the parent, consequently dispersal is actually restricted.

Results of a detailed inventory of a transect 8 km long and 5 m wide in Rio Manu, Peru found 22% of all individual plants had explosive seed dispersal, but these individuals represented only 7% of the total species diversity. Moreover, explosive seed dispersers represented between 30% and 50% of plants on slopes, a habitat where landslides are common. Such habitats rarely attain equilibrium, but are repopulated by colonizing species. Robin gave examples of other explosive seed dispersers as strongly dominant species forming an almost uniform stand, a monodominant either in the canopy or understory, over vast areas in low- elevation tropical forests in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Robin noted most surveys reflect only what is present at a given moment in time. He then placed the question of relative rarity or dominance in a temporal context. A monodominant species today could have been a rare colonizer earlier in time. Robin's long-term studies at BarroColorado Island, Panama involve tracking the fate of 250,000 individually-tagged vascular plants. He presented examples of species that are extremely rare in Panama, but have a single, highly-clumped population in the survey area. The population is slowly but surely expanding. Although the forest appears mature, he noted the forest is no more than 500 years old and some individual trees represent the original colonizers.

In closing, Robin noted the potential impact ofsuccessful colonizing species for conservation efforts involving fixed area reserves. A colonizing species present at a very low population level when the reserve is initiated could well become a monodominant species and force a considerable reduction in overall species diversity.

INSURANCE BENEFITS REMINDER

Open Enrollment insurance forms are due in to the Personnel Office TODAY, Friday, January 12, 1996 - even if you are not making changes to your existing coverage. If you have any questions, please call **Jennifer** (x526) in Benefits.

***DAZ* POSITION OPENING**

The Field Museum softball team, The Dead Animal Zoo, is seeking a ***coach*** for next season. Anyone interested in assuming the mantle of leadership should call extension 636 for details.

VIA INTERNET

Proposal forms, research funding opportunities, funding search tools, and information on funding agencies are available via the internet.

The following websites offer comprehensive information on federal grants programs:

Office of Contract and Grant Administration - University of California, San Diego
http://ocga.ucsd.edu/funding_opps.html

TRAM Research Funding Opportunities
http://tram.rice.edu/tram/

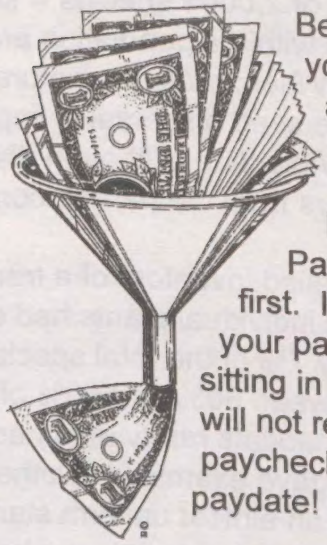
Research Funding Agencies
Department of Computer Science, School of Engineering and Applied Science - University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
http://www.cs.virginia.edu/~seas/resdev/sponsors.html

If you have any questions, please call **Lisa Wodis** (X542).

NEW PR CAMPAIGN

The Field Museum's new PR campaign, created by RPM advertising, is "on display" on a TV screen at the north elevator entrance on the ground floor. Titled *What are we doing this weekend?* the sixty and thirty second spots are currently running on both major television stations and cable. ***Thanks to Pat Kremer and the PR staff*** for making these available to the whole staff via the set-up at the north elevator.

ATTENTION: ALL EMPLOYEES WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT!



Before you close your bank accounts, stop and think! You must notify Personnel/ Payroll Department first. If you do not, your paycheck will be sitting in limbo and you will not receive your paycheck until the next paydate!

If you have any questions regarding this, please call **Doris** (x220) or **Sandy** (x289).

AREA CODE CHANGE

Included in this week's *Natural News* is an Ameritech guide to the impending area code changes. There is also an Area Code Change Hotline:

1-800-356-7180

EDITOR'S NOTE: Effective immediately, submissions to the *Natural News* can be made by e-mail to:

klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org

Of course, submissions can still be made on floppy disk as well.

The deadline remains the same -- ***Tuesday at noon.***